

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6320

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17975

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG REACTION TO FRENCH EC ENERGY PROPOSAL

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 8847; B) PARIS 26886; C) BONN

17159

1. EMBOFFS HAVE DISCUSSED GERMAN REACTION TO THE RECENT FRENCH ENERGY PROPOSALS MADE AT THE NOV 11 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WITH OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTRIES. IN CONTRAST TO CABOUAT'S REPORT (REF B), OUR SOURCES HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE GERMAN REACTION AS "POLITE BUT NOT POSITIVE". THEY REMARKED THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT WERE INSUFFICIENT IN TWO PRINCIPAL COUNTS: A) THE FRG WANTS FULL EC MEMBERSHIP IN THE IEA, NOT JUST OBSERVER STATUS
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FOR THE COMMISSION, AND B) ANY PRODUCER/CONSUMER

CONFERENCE REQUIRES THE MOST THOROUGH PREPARATION, INCLUDING AGREEMENT OF TIMING AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH A CONFERENCE PRIOR TO EVEN A PRECONFERENCE MEETING IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL BE A SUCCESS. THEY WERE ALSO HESITANT TO COMMIT FRG TO MEETING SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION, PREFERRING INSTEAD A FORMULA WHICH ESTABLISHES GENERAL GOALS, BUT LEAVES CONSIDERABLE DISCRETION AS TO PROGRAMS FOR MEETING THESE GOALS.

2. WHILE OUR SOURCES STILL DO NOT PREDICT MUCH SUCCESS IN THE ENERGY SPHERE DURING THE FORTHCOMING EC SUMMIT, THEY CHARACTERIZED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AS REPRESENTING SOME CHANGE IN THE FRENCH ATTITUDE. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO AVOID A DIRECT REBUFF TO THE FRENCH AT THE SUMMIT.

3. ONE SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT GERMAN POSITION ON PRESIDENT GISCARD'S PROPOSED PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE REMAINS THE SAME AS IT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO (SEE REF C).

HILLENBRAND

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